



Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund

In December 2022, Congress approved **\$1 billion** for the U.S. Department of Energy to improve the resilience of the Puerto Rican electric grid, with a focus on the island's most vulnerable and disadvantaged households and communities.

Funds to be Released in Two Rounds

DOE currently plans for at least two rounds of funding for the Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund (PR ERF). The first round will rapidly deploy residential **rooftop solar and storage for vulnerable households and households that include individuals with disabilities**.

For subsequent rounds of funding, DOE will issue a formal Request for Information (RFI) in **Spring 2023** to gather feedback from stakeholders in Puerto Rico on how best to use the remaining funding for priority technologies such as residential rooftop solar and storage, community solar, microgrids, and other grid modernization solutions that will improve grid resilience. An RFI is a formal request for information to collect information from stakeholders. That information is then used to inform program design and eligible entities.

First Round of Funding to Open in Spring 2023

For the accelerated funding round, DOE will conduct an open Request for Proposals (RFP) from the public, non-profit, and private sectors. Potential applicants may include institutions of higher education, local governments, non-profit organizations, private industry, community organizations, and public entities.

Puerto Rican Stakeholder Engagement is Vital

As DOE works to aid Puerto Rico recovery efforts and grid improvements, we have heard directly from local leaders that **communities want more direct access to renewable energy to power their homes and businesses**, particularly as distributed energy resources offer resilience benefits during extreme weather such as hurricanes. However, the upfront cost of these systems is often out of reach for low- and moderate-income households and businesses, limiting access to the benefits of technologies such as rooftop solar.

DOE will work to leverage this \$1 billion through the PR ERF and collaborate proactively **with Puerto Ricans** to develop this program effectively and efficiently to support a more reliable, affordable, and clean grid. We understand the **urgency** to move quickly in Puerto Rico and will work to implement this program in a timely manner, while ensuring that **Puerto Rican communities are heard and involved** in the design and implementation.

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